

Border Eagle

Laughlin Air Force Base, Texas ... Together we 'XL'



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the inside Scoop...

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The 47th Support Group deputy commander explains how everyone in the Air Force is a potential recruiter and should spread the word about the merits of the Air Force...

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Air Power
Quotes of the Week

"We can lift ourselves out of ignorance, we can find ourselves as creatures of excellence and intelligence and skill. We can be free! We can learn to fly."

—Richard Bach

T-38 hits 40-year milestone

Compiled from staff reports

May marks the 42nd anniversary since the arrival of Laughlin's first T-38 Talon, named "The City of Del Rio."

"The City of Del Rio" arrived here May 28, 1964, to begin a "phasing-in" process to replace the aging T-33A Shooting Star.

Before the T-38, the Air Force had been concerned about the wide gap between the performance of initial training aircraft and follow-on training,

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Photo by Airman 1st Class Brad Pettit

Since 1971

2nd Lt. Geoff Fukumoto (right), a recent graduate of Specialized Undergraduate Pilot Training, reminds Phil Henry, who graduated from Laughlin's Undergraduate Pilot Training Class 71-07, of some simulator features in the Operations Training Complex during a T-38 simulator ride Tuesday. Henry was part of a 47-person reunion group of 1971 UPT graduates and their spouses who toured Laughlin facilities Tuesday.

Space: Air Force sets sights even higher

By Gerry J. Gilmore

American Forces Press Service

American military involvement in space will become more critical to national security in coming years, said U.S. Space Command's top officer.

"Most anyone involved in military operations, whether military or civilian, would tell you space is becoming increasingly important," said Gen. Ralph E. Eberhart, SPACECOM commander in chief.

U.S. Space Command, headquartered at Peterson Air Force Base, Colo., coordinates the use of U.S. military and civilian space assets to support, enhance and control space operations and computer-network defensive and offensive missions.

Satellite imagery, missile warning and targeting information that space-based systems provide have proven their military worth to U.S. defense planners throughout the past decade, Eberhart said. That data, for instance, contributed to victory during Operation Desert Storm and the 1999 Kosovo air campaign.

Sometime in April, Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld is expected to provide his formal response to rec-

ommendations in a report issued Jan. 11 by the Commission to Assess U.S. National Security Space Management and Organization. Prior to his nomination to be secretary, Rumsfeld chaired the commission, which, among other things, sought to determine if any changes need to be made to improve the United States' national security posture and capabilities in space.

"We'd be kidding ourselves if we said we couldn't do it better, (and) our goal ought to be to do it better tomorrow," Eberhart said.

A Rumsfeld space commission news release called the likelihood of future conflict in space "a virtual certainty." Because of this, the commission noted, the United States should take immediate steps to develop superior space capabilities.

"We have, in fact, militarized space," he said. "We use space assets and space information for military applications. 'We've been doing that for decades. The trend is increasing, not just the United States of America, but also other countries, friends, and possible foes.

"So, I think we've crossed that bridge," he said.

(Courtesy of American Forces Press Service)



(NASA courtesy art)

Commander's Corner

Services here to serve

By Nick Campiglia

47th Services Division director

Air Force Services programs exist to support Air Force members and the Air Force mission. At Laughlin, the 47th Services Division accomplishes this support by providing community service and recreational programs that enhance quality of life for Air Force families – active-duty, Guard, Reserve, civilian and retired.

Services facilities improve morale, productivity and retention by providing a mentally and physically fit force. These facilities include the Chaparral Dining Facility, XL Fitness Center, Book Mark Library, Lodging, Southwinds Marina, base and Marina Famcamps, Club XL, Club Amistad, Cactus Bowling Lanes, Leaning Pine Golf Course, Auto Skills, Wood and Frame Shop, Silverwings, Outdoor Recreation, Veterinary Clinic, Fiesta Community Center, Youth Center, Child Development Center, base stables, skeet range, car wash and garden plots.

The Fiesta Community Center provides space for numerous Laughlin functions, including family programs, talent shows, organizational functions, award ceremonies and seminars. And Air Force Clubs provide food, beverages, entertainment and other membership programs to meet the social needs of members and their authorized guests.

Individual Services programs also contribute highly to Laughlin quality of life and fulfillment of the Air Force mission. Laughlin's Family Members Programs Flight hosts several programs to help commanders and families balance the competing demands of family life, military mission, and improve the economic viability of the family unit.



Photo by Airman 1st Class Brad Pettit

Staff Sgt. Javier Aguirre, XL Fitness Center NCOIC fitness equipment maintenance technician, inspects the belt and electrical system of a treadmill at the fitness center Wednesday. In addition to maintaining equipment, fitness center staff help serve between 500-700 customers daily.

In addition to the Child Development Center, other available Laughlin programs include the Air Force Family Child Care program, consisting of

See 'Services,' page 3

I want you to improve retention



By Lt. Col. Kevin Illsley

47th Support Group deputy commander

Do you ever feel there is not much you personally can do to improve retention? It is easy for us to think that since we don't have the ability to increase pay or change the operations tempo of the Air Force, it is somebody else's job to improve retention. Think again!

The Air Force's ability to attract and keep the best people affects us all. The impact of a decreasing retention rate means fewer people, greater turnover, increased training time, and the potential for the lack of certain skills.

Our Air Force has stepped up to the challenge of improving retention. The focus is on managing tempo and improving compensation, retirement, quality of life, care for families and personnel programs. Results are definitely positive. So with all these initiatives, what can you do?

Each of us has a bigger impact on retention than we may realize. Whether you're enlisted or officer, you are the Air Force. You make the Air Force an organization that people want to join and want to be a part of – an Air Force where teamwork, camaraderie, working with a high quality of people and the satisfaction of serving our nation are standard truths. In other words, being a part of something bigger than yourself.

The Air Force is a large organization, but remember that each of us define "our" Air Force. We form our opinions and make decisions based on our unit, base, or wing

See 'Retention,' page 3

Col. Jack Egginton

Commander

1st Lt. Dawnita Parkinson

Public affairs chief

Airman 1st Class Brad Pettit

Editor

The Border Eagle is published every Friday, except the first week in January and the last week in December, by the Del Rio News Herald, a private firm in no way connected with the U. S. Air Force, under exclusive written contract with the 47th Flying Training Wing, Laughlin Air Force Base, Texas.

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Deadlines, Advertising

News for the Border Eagle should be submitted to the 47th Flying Training Wing Public Affairs Office, Bldg. 338, Laughlin AFB, TX, 298-5262. **Copy deadline is close of business each Thursday the week prior to publication.**

Advertising should be submitted to the Del Rio News-Herald, 2205 Bedell, Del Rio, TX, 774-4611. Advertising should be submitted by 4 p.m. each Friday.

Submissions can be e-mailed to:
bradley.pettit@laughlin.af.mil or
reginal.woodruff@laughlin.af.mil

"Excellence – not our goal, but our standard."

– 47 FTW motto

'Services,' from page 2

in-home child care provided by licensed providers living in government housing. And Air Force Youth Programs provide excellent opportunities for youth to develop physical, social, emotional and cognitive abilities, and to experience achievement, leadership, enjoyment, friendship and recognition.

Generally, all Services programs (except dining facilities) may be used by individuals who contribute to the Air Force mission. However, active-duty personnel and their families have first priority if space or other limiting factors apply. However, this will seldom be an issue.

While we keep combat support and community service as our top priorities, sound business practices are the keys to a successful operation. Every day, Air Force Services activities move about \$8 million in cash through their registers. More than 325,000 club members worldwide spend almost \$280 million in our clubs annually! Our food and lodging operations are ranked among the largest nationally.

As the Laughlin Services director, I can assure you that Services

offers many, many privileges. We can cater your functions and assist with planning them. We can provide a location for guests to dine and socialize in a safe environment. We support the flying mission with such events as Border Buttermilk, Assignment Drop, Track Select and graduation. Air Force club members can find a home away from home at any Air Force club. Whether on a temporary duty assignment, vacation, or

in the midst of a permanent change of station move, a person's membership card is welcome at any Air Force club.

It is almost impossible to work or live on Laughlin and not utilize a Services activity almost every day. Our commitment to our customers is to provide the best customer service

no matter which Services activity or program a person chooses.

We at Services work hard to fulfill our customers' needs and expectations. However, if you feel we are in some way not fulfilling this commitment to serve, or if you are having trouble getting a Services-related problem solved, please call me at 298-5810, or e-mail me at nick.campiglia@laughlin.af.mil.

"It is almost impossible to work or live on Laughlin and not utilize a Services activity almost every day."

-Nick Campiglia
47th Services
Division
director

'Retention,' from page 2

Photo by Airman 1st Class Brad Pettit

Master Sgt. Jimmie Davis, (right), Laughlin Career Assistance Adviser, discusses the importance of making informed re-enlistment or separation decisions with Senior Airman Greg Leonard, 47th Security Forces Squadron plans and programs section leader. Davis helps members who are up for re-enlistment explore all their options before making the decision to stay in or separate from the Air Force.

where we are assigned.

Two of the top five reasons enlisted personnel give for leaving the Air Force are directly related to supervision. Of the five reasons, unit-level leadership is second only to pay and allowances.

The fifth reason is recognition for one's efforts. Whether you are a supervisor or not, there are tools to help with retention. Two are your Career Assistance Advisor and the Retention Toolkit on the AFPC Web site.

The changes to address retention are starting to add up. Im-

proving pay and compensation, and providing more predictability and stability are significant to me personally.

Increasing the maximum SGLI coverage to \$250,000 and the opening of the Thrift Savings Plan to the military are two recent positive changes.

Retention will continue to be a challenge, but we can do our part by focusing on the improvements being made and reminding ourselves how great it is to be a member of the best Air Force in the world!



Please recycle this newspaper.

Actionline

Call 298-5351

personal reply. It's also very useful in case more information is needed in order to pursue your inquiry. If you give your name, we will make every attempt to ensure confidentiality when appropriate.

If your question relates to the general interest of the people of Laughlin, the question and answer may also be printed in the Border Eagle. Before you call the Actionline, please try to work the problem out through the normal chain of command or directly with the base agency involved.

Thanks for your cooperation, and I look forward to reading some quality ideas and suggestions.

This column is one way to work through problems that haven't been solved through normal channels. By leaving your name and phone number, you are assured of a timely personal



Col. Jack Egginton
47 FTW commander

AAFES	298-3176
Accounting and Finance	298-5204
Civil Engineer	298-5252
Civilian Personnel	298-5299
Commissary	298-5815
Dormitory manager	298-5213
Hospital	298-6311
Housing	298-5904
Inspector General	298-5638
Legal	298-5172
Military Personnel	298-5073
Public Affairs	298-5988
Security Forces	298-5900
Services	298-5810
Equal Opportunity	298-5400
FWA hotline	298-4170

Computer security systems vulnerable

By Gerry J. Gilmore

American Forces Press Service

The four-star general whose organization is responsible for Department of Defense computer security says the "cyber" threat against U.S. military information systems is real.

"My view is that as we look at our computer systems, we'd be kidding ourselves if we thought they weren't vulnerable," said Air Force Gen. Ralph E. Eberhart, U.S. Space Command commander.

Eberhart's command assumed responsibility for computer network defense in 1999, he said. The following year, it picked up the mission of computer network attack.

Today's threats against DoD – and private-sector – computer systems run the spectrum from the curious, bored high school or college student to state-sponsored 'cyber' war or com-

puter network attack, he said.

DoD computer security experts "look at the (threat) capabilities that we know are out there," Eberhart said. "We're never quite clear what the intent is." For example, he cited the difficulty in determining "whether this is a virus, whether this is a prank, whether this is sort of an innocuous probe or whether this is really somebody trying to destroy our network, deny us information, or worse yet, give us the wrong information."

Eberhart rated today's level of threat against DoD computer systems as "medium."

He noted that DoD and private-sector security specialists are also concerned and vigilant about "insider" threats to computer information systems. Such threats can range from espionage by agents working for foreign governments or rival corporations to acts by disgruntled employees.

(Courtesy of Air Force Print News)



Please
recycle

Newslines

Family Day celebration

The third annual Easter Egg Hunt and Family Day celebration will be held from 9 a.m. to noon Saturday. A parade will begin at the base chapel and end at the Fiesta Community Center.

An Easter egg hunt will then be held in the field by the Fiesta Center.

A military working dog demonstration will be held and displays will be set up. Private organizations may contact the Fiesta Center to sign up for a booth. Volunteers are needed to assist with the setup, cleanup and to staff game booths.

For more information, call Brian Colonna at 298-5474.

47th Medical Group closure

The 47th Medical Group will be closed for training from 1-5 p.m. Thursday.

The Family Practice Clinic will not operate sick-call hours in the afternoon. Aerospace Medicine will operate sick call hours from 1-2 p.m.

If you have an emergency, call 911 for assistance.

For more information, call Staff Sgt. Julie Pritchard at 298-6385.

Officers' Spouses' Club event

An OSC social will be held at 7 p.m. Tuesday at Club XL. Silver Crystal Bingo will be the activity. Prizes will be awarded.

R.S.V.P. to Angela O'Connell by today at 298-7081.

Burger King changes hours

The base exchange Burger King now has new hours of operation. The following hours now apply:

Monday-Friday

7:30 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Saturday-Sunday

11 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

For more information on Burger King hours of operation, call 298-3001.

Remember
home security:
Keep your
doors locked.



'T-38,' from page 1

and operational aircraft. In order to meet mission needs, Northrop designed the T-38.

The T-38 Talon is a twin-engine, high-altitude, high performance, swept-wing supersonic jet trainer. It is capable of flying in excess of 800 miles per hour, which more than doubles the Shooting Star's speed capability. It also is capable of flying higher and farther, with a ceiling of more than 55,000 feet and a range beyond 1,150 miles.

Following the arrival of "The City of Del Rio," additional T-38 aircraft began to operate from Laughlin's flightline. By the end of 1964, Laughlin was home for 32 Talons. Today, Laughlin's T-38 inventory has grown to 82 aircraft.

Though 42 years may seem like an eternity in this age of rapid technological advancement, Col. Herb Foret, 47th Flying Training Wing vice commander, says he expects the versatile T-38 will continue to serve the Air Force and Laughlin for some time to come.

"Improvements and upgrades to the T-38 will make the jet a better trainer than it is today and help bridge the gap as we begin to transition to the F-22 and other advanced aircraft," he said.



(Courtesy photo)

Pictured is "The City of Del Rio," Laughlin's first T-38, on the base flightline shortly after its arrival here May 28, 1964. "The City of Del Rio" was the first T-38 sent to Laughlin to begin a phasing-in process to replace the T-33A Shooting Star. Laughlin currently owns 82 T-38 Talon aircraft.

Safety belts save lives – so buckle up!

Where are they now?

Name: Capt. Robert "Rock" Nelson

Class/date of graduation from Laughlin: Class 92-07, April 3, 1992

Aircraft you now fly and base you are stationed at: A-10, Davis-Monthan AFB, Ariz.

Mission of your current aircraft? Close-air support, combat search and rescue, forward air controller, interdiction, and anything else requiring immediate destruction

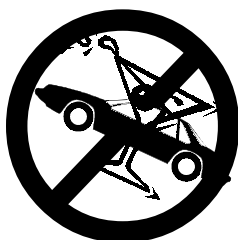
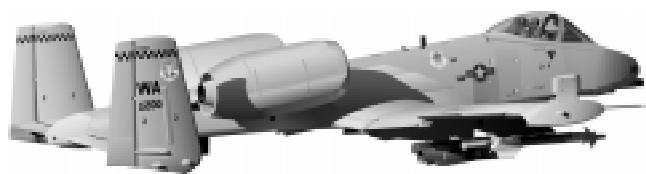
What do you like most about your current aircraft? There are no heavy breathers in the back seat.

What do you dislike most about your current aircraft? Bad question

What was the most important thing you learned at Laughlin besides learning to fly? Water skiing

What is your most memorable experience from Laughlin? Rodeo weekend in Acuna, Mexico

What advice would you give SUPT students at Laughlin? Two engines are better than one.



Don't drink and drive.
You could ruin your career.
You could go to jail. You
could kill another person.
You could kill yourself.

The *XL*er



Hometown: Lenoir, N.C.

Family: Wife, Andrea; daughters, Naomi, 16; Rebekah, 13; son, Josiah, 8

Time at Laughlin: 1 1/2 years

Time in service: 19 years

Hobbies: Playing the piano, frisbee and puppets

Greatest accomplishment: Being able to talk

Senior Master Sgt.
Joey Walker
47th Mission Support Squadron

to my children about anything
Bad habit: Trying to do too much in too little time

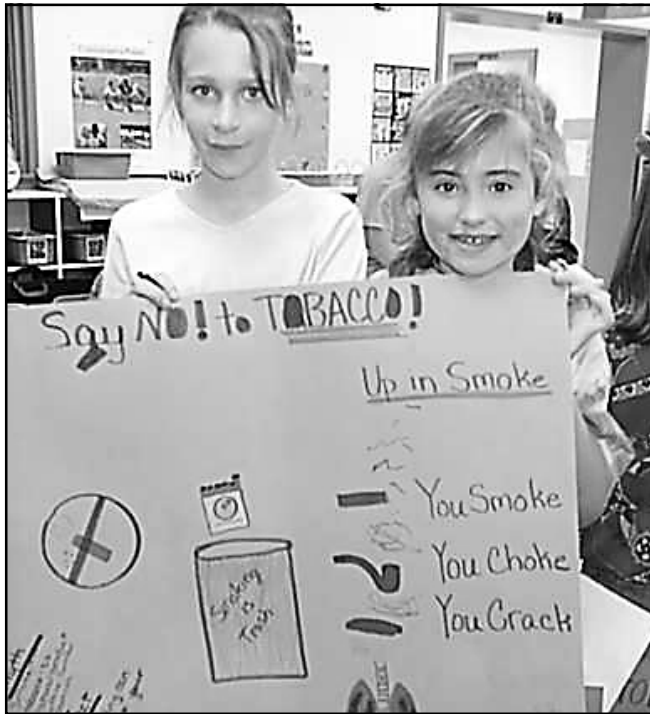
Favorite beverage: Iced tea

Favorite food: Ruben and Arby's roast beef sandwiches

Motto: There are three kinds

of people: Those who make things happen, those who watch things happen, and those who wonder what happened.

If you could spend one hour with any person, who would it be and why? My grandfather, so I could introduce him to his only great-grandson who acts just like him.



(Courtesy photo)

Kick Butts Day

(From left) Chloe Grosseohmig and Amanda Shirey show off their first place poster after winning a contest sponsored by the Health and Wellness Center and Youth Center April 4. Participants ages 6-12 were asked to design a poster showing why using tobacco products is harmful to a person's health. Second place went to Sarah Richard, Emily Franco and Jessica Savoie. Third place went to RT Fenimore and Dario Yanosko. All winners received a Kick Butts T-shirt for their efforts.

Question of the week

What can your commander or supervisor do to help you with retention decisions?



"Show me how I'm needed by him or her, the unit and the Air Force."

Tech. Sgt. Rick Horn
XL Fitness Center



"By continuing to give the excellent support they already provide."

Staff Sgt. Shonilli Gaston
47th Flying Training Wing Wing Plans



"By showing me all the Air Force has to offer."

Senior Airman Angela Ripperda
47th Mission Support Squadron

Chapel Schedule

Catholic

Saturday

-Vigil Mass, 5 p.m.

Sunday

-Mass, 5 p.m.

-Mass, 9:30 a.m.

-Confession by appointment

-Little Rock Scripture Study, 11 a.m. in Chapel Fellowship Hall

Thursday

-Choir, 6 p.m.

-CCD, 11 a.m., Religious Education Building

Jewish

Max Stool, call 775-4519

Muslim

Dr. Mostafa Salama, call 768-9200.

Protestant

Sunday

-General worship, 11 a.m.

-Sunday school, 9:30 a.m. at the Religious Education Building

Monday

Student Wives' Fellowship, 7-9 p.m. Call 298-7365.

Wednesday

-Women's Bible Study, 12:30-2:15 p.m. at Chapel

-Choir, 7 p.m. at Chapel

Chapel Youth Group

Sunday

-5 p.m. Chapel Fellowship Hall

For more information on Chapel events and services, call 298-5111.

Boating safety important during Easter weekend

The Easter weekend is here! For those who plan on spending their weekend boating at the lake, there are some items that should be handled now.

Your boat most likely has been setting up all winter with old fuel in the gas tank and the batteries may be weak. To make your outing more enjoyable, drain all old fuel and dispose of it properly. Many times fuel that has been sitting in the tank has become diluted with condensation and possibly dirt, rust and other pollutants. If this fuel is used, the likelihood of a failure on the water is greatly increased.

Check batteries and make sure they are fully charged and will hold a charge. It is very difficult to paddle a 20-foot ski boat with a water ski half a mile back to shore.

Thinking of paddling? Be sure you have a paddle or oar on-board in the event you need it. A small toolbox is also handy in the event you have to pull a spark plug if it fails.

Check your lifejackets and be sure they are in good condition. If you keep emergency flares on your boat check the expiration date and replace if outdated.

The projected water temperature for Lake Amistad Easter weekend is approximately 65 degrees. An extended period of time in water at that temperature can lead to cramping and hypothermia resulting in drowning for even the most experienced swimmer.



Before you leave the house, have these telephone numbers readily available:

Southwinds Marina (Air Force Marina) – 775-7800 or 775-5971; Val Verde County Sheriff's Office – 774-7513; Del Rio Police Department – 774-2711; National Park Service/Diablo East Ranger Station – 775-7491; and Rough Canyon – 775-1911; if you can, dial 911 in case of an emergency on the water.

If you are stranded on the water and are trying to get the attention of another boater, don't just wave at them; they just might wave back. Get two bright orange-colored lifejackets and use a crossing-your-chest motion to wave at them.

If history repeats itself in the realm of weather, it should be a bright, sunny weekend, so be sure to use plenty of sunscreen and have covering for your head. Consume large quantities of water to avoid dehydration. If consuming alcoholic beverages, remember that alcohol has triple the effect in the sun on the water as it does on land due to the glare from the sun and the motion of the boat. Boating While Intoxicated is determined at the same levels on the water as while driving a car and carries the same penalties.

Any person under the age of 13 must wear a lifejacket at all times when a boat less than 26 feet in length is under way.

Lastly, be sure your boat registration certificate is current and properly affixed to the bow of your boat as prescribed by law and have the blue copy on you. This also applies to personal water craft.

(Courtesy of 47th Flying Training Wing Safety Office)

Sports injuries are big problem

By Jim Garamone

American Forces Press Service

Sports are a big part of the military culture, but service members have to be more careful when they play.

Sports and recreation participation are major causes of injuries in the armed forces, said Diana Settles, program manager for injury prevention and physical fitness for the Navy.

"DoD spends \$600 million to \$750 million per year to treat musculoskeletal injuries," said Settles, who also works on the DoD Injury Occupational Illness Prevention Committee.

While this statistic covers all musculoskeletal disabilities, a significant number are due to sports accidents, she said.

Settles said DoD is trying to get a better handle on the scope of the problem, but that's been hard because many sports injuries occur during off-duty hours.

The effects of these injuries are far-reaching. There is, of course, the pain service members suffer. But also, injuries affect the mission.

Basketball provides a good example of what service members can use to avoid injuries, Settles said. "Basketball is very popular and service members play the sport year-round," she said. "Pick-up games are common and they are played indoors and outdoors." Pick-up games commonly do not

have referees.

Settles said service members must consider internal and external "risk factors" when approaching recreation and sports activities. Internal factors include the shape the players are in and their physical anatomies.

Basketball requires a lot of lateral movement. Players should warm-up and stretch for five to 10 minutes before taking the court. She said local morale, welfare and recreation specialists can advise service members what types of stretching are best for various sports.

Ignoring external factors can also cause accidents. In the case of basketball, such factors include the condition of the court and the proper use of players' equipment. Don't just pick up a basketball and start playing. Check out both indoor and outdoor courts to ensure they are dry and do not contain sharp or foreign objects. They should be properly lit. Make sure there is enough room behind the hoop so players don't run into a wall or go up on a curb. Wear the correct shoes when playing hoops.

Sprains and knee injuries are the likely injuries that result from playing basketball. Every sport has internal and external risk factors, and service members who are aware of them can cut down on injuries.

DoD is trying to reach service members through their coaches, units and specialists in the recreation centers.

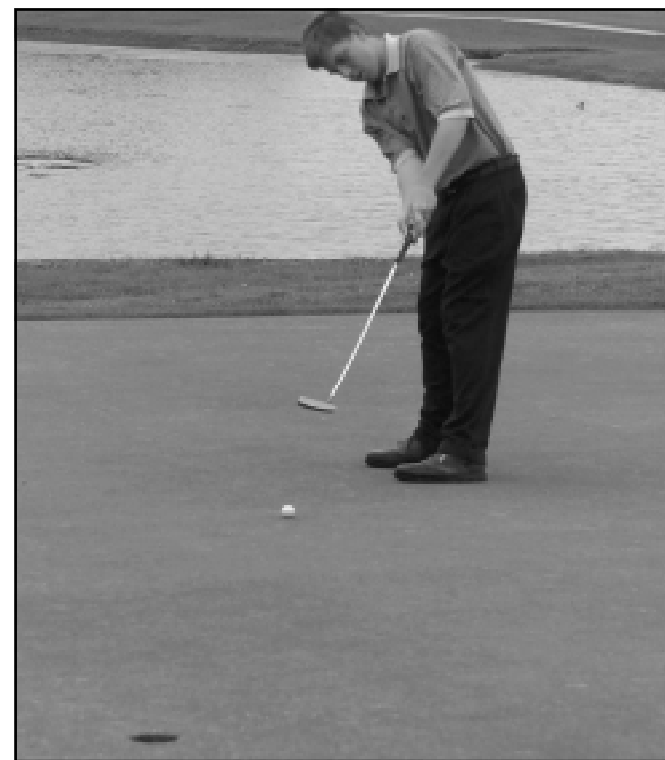


Photo by Airman 1st Class Brad Pettit

Online!

Adam Polzin, a student from Clark High School, San Antonio, putts for par during the Del Rio High School Tournament at the Laughlin Leaning Pine Golf Course Monday. The annual tournament hosted 95 boys from several high schools in Southwest Texas.

Sports, health programs

Home run derby

A home run derby will be held at 11:30 p.m. at Liberty Field April 21. Registration will be held at 11 p.m. For more information, call Senior Airman Jennifer Nalls at 298-5326 or 298-5251.